



BLAYDON

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER, 1942.

SWALWELL,

A. A. FLETCHER & SON, GENERAL PRINTERS, FOUNDRY LANE,
1943.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health—

T. MORRISON CLAYTON, M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H

Senior Sanitary Inspector—

TAYLOR P. VEITCH, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors—

GEORGE E. RENWICK, M.S.I.A.

WILSON JOYCE, M.S.I.A,

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
BLAYDON,

JUNE, 1943.

*To the Chairman and Members
of the Blaydon Urban District Council.*

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Fourth Annual Report being that for the year 1942.

Although subject to additional duties the Public Health Department has continued to function at a satisfactory level and I would take this early opportunity of recording my sincere appreciation of the willing assistance and co-operation extended by the various members of the Department.

The year was noteworthy for the introduction of the Scabies Order, 1941, and details of the work done in the Blaydon district are given elsewhere.

I am happy to report that the Infantile Mortality Rate has once more, within recent times, reached a new low level at 50·63, the previous lowest being at 52·02 in 1939.

Concerning Infectious Diseases, Measles and Whooping Cough show a considerable reduction over the 1941, figures, while Scarlet Fever has shown a fairly comparative increase over the previous years.

There has been a good response to Diphtheria Immunisation although there is scope for improvement, especially in the attendance of the pre-school group.

Except for the month of April, Mr. Wilson Joyce, has been on loan to the Surveyor's Department throughout the year in connection with work on war damaged property : his assistance has been a great miss to the department.

Statistical tables are appended including extracts from those of the Registrar General.

My thanks are due to the Surveyor, Rating Department, and Nursing Associations for various items of information included in this report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. MORRISON CLAYTON,
Medical Officer of Health.

Medical Officer's Annual Report.

Area.

The acreage remains at 9,247, in accordance with the settlement of boundaries in 1936, and the density of population per acre = 3.10.

Population.

The Registrar General's estimate of population is 28,740.

The mid-1938 estimate was at 30,790, while the 1931 census showed a population of 32,263. It will therefore be apparent that the diminution in the population since the 1931 census still continues, and must in no small measure be due to enlistment in H.M. Forces, and the transference of labour to industries outside the area.

Number of inhabited houses, 31st December, 1942	...	8351
Rateable Value - 1st October, 1942	...	£117,613
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate, 1st April, 1942	- £423.	

Boundaries, Physical Features and Social Conditions of the Area.

The Blaydon Urban District, situated in the north-west of Durham County, consists of four Wards, namely, Blaydon, Winlaton, Rowlands Gill and Chopwell, and is bounded on the north-west from Frenches Close along the Coal Burn, Barlow Burn and Blaydon Burn to the southern boundary of the Blaydon Burn Tar Works, thence across the Beweshill Lane to Stargate Village, proceeding via the Colliery Waggonway, across Hexham Old Road and the Scotswood - Hexham Road at Hedgefield House, to the River Tyne near the Saw Mill, Stella.

On the north by the River Tyne to its junction with the River Derwent at Derwenthwaugh.

On the south-east by the River Derwent via Winlaton Mill, Rowlands Gill and Lintzford to its junction with the Milkwell Burn at Blackhall Mill.

On the west by the Milkwell Burn to Ravenside, thence by field hedges (Northumberland County Boundary) to Labourne's Fell and Leadgate, proceeding along the Clinty Burn and Red Burn to Frenches Close.

The chief industry in the district is coal-mining, while agriculture furnishes the next most important source of employment. The district is, generally speaking, hilly, with Blaydon and Rowlands Gill lying in the lower positions, while Winlaton and especially Chopwell, occupy the higher levels.

Unemployment.

The following table indicates the state of unemployment during the 1937 to 1941 period. The 1942 figures are, for reasons of security, unavailable.

	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Blaydon ...	430	419	333	391	39
Winlaton ...	322	225	130	190	41
Rowlands Gill	230	114	176	201	11
Chopwell ...	408	510	313	310	38
Totals	1390	1268	952	1092	129

Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year.

	Total	M.	F.	
LIVE BIRTHS { Legitimate	457	240	217	Birth Rate per 1000 of the
{ Illegitimate	17	12	5	estimated resident population 1942 = 16.21.
STILL BIRTHS ...	21	9	12	{ Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births = 42.42.
DEATHS	311	195	116	{ Death Rate per 1000 estimated average population = 10.82.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

(Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List)

	Deaths	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) Births.
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	... 1	2.02
No. 30 Other Puerperal causes	... nil.	nil.
Total	1	2.02

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.

All infants, per 1,000 live births	...	...	50·63.
Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births			43·76.
Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births			58·82.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	31.
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	1.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			1.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			0.

Births.

The total number of live births registered during 1942 was 474, of which 252 were male and 222 were female, and of the above total 17 were illegitimate.

The natural increase of the population for the year (i.e. the excess of births over deaths) was 163.

21 still births occurred during the year, and 20 were legitimate.

For comparative purposes the 1941 figures are appended:-

No. of live births	...	462 (232 M., 230 F.)
No. of illegitimate births		24
No. of still births	...	13

The birth rate for the year was 16·21 per 1,000 population. That for England and Wales was 15·8, and for the administrative county 17·8.

Deaths.

The total number of deaths during 1942 was 311, of which 195 were male and 116 were female, giving an annual death rate of 10·82 per 1,000 population.

Death rate for England and Wales = 11·6 per 1,000

Death rate for administrative county = 11·9 per 1,000

The chief causes of death were as follows:-

Heart disease 74; Cancer 31; Other diseases of circulatory system 20; Intra-cranial vascular lesions 40; Respiratory diseases other than Tuberculosis 32; Tuberculosis (all forms) 19.

Infantile Deaths.

There were 24 infantile deaths recorded (15 male and 9 female), giving an infantile mortality rate of 50·63. This compares favourably with the infantile mortality rate for England and Wales at 49, and for the administrative county at 59.

A graph is appended (page 10) comparing the infantile mortality rates during the last 21 years in Blaydon, Durham County and England and Wales.

The chief causes of death were Congenital Debility and Premature Births 15, Respiratory Disease 6.

Maternal Mortality.

One maternal death was recorded during the year (1941=1) and the maternal mortality rates (1939, 1940, 1941 and 1942) for this district, the administrative county, and England and Wales are as follows:-

	1939	1940	1941	1942
Blaydon Urban District	3·63	4·03	2·10	2·02
Administrative County	4·99	3·32	3·79	2·67
England and Wales	2·82	2·16	2·23	2·01

Laboratory Facilities.

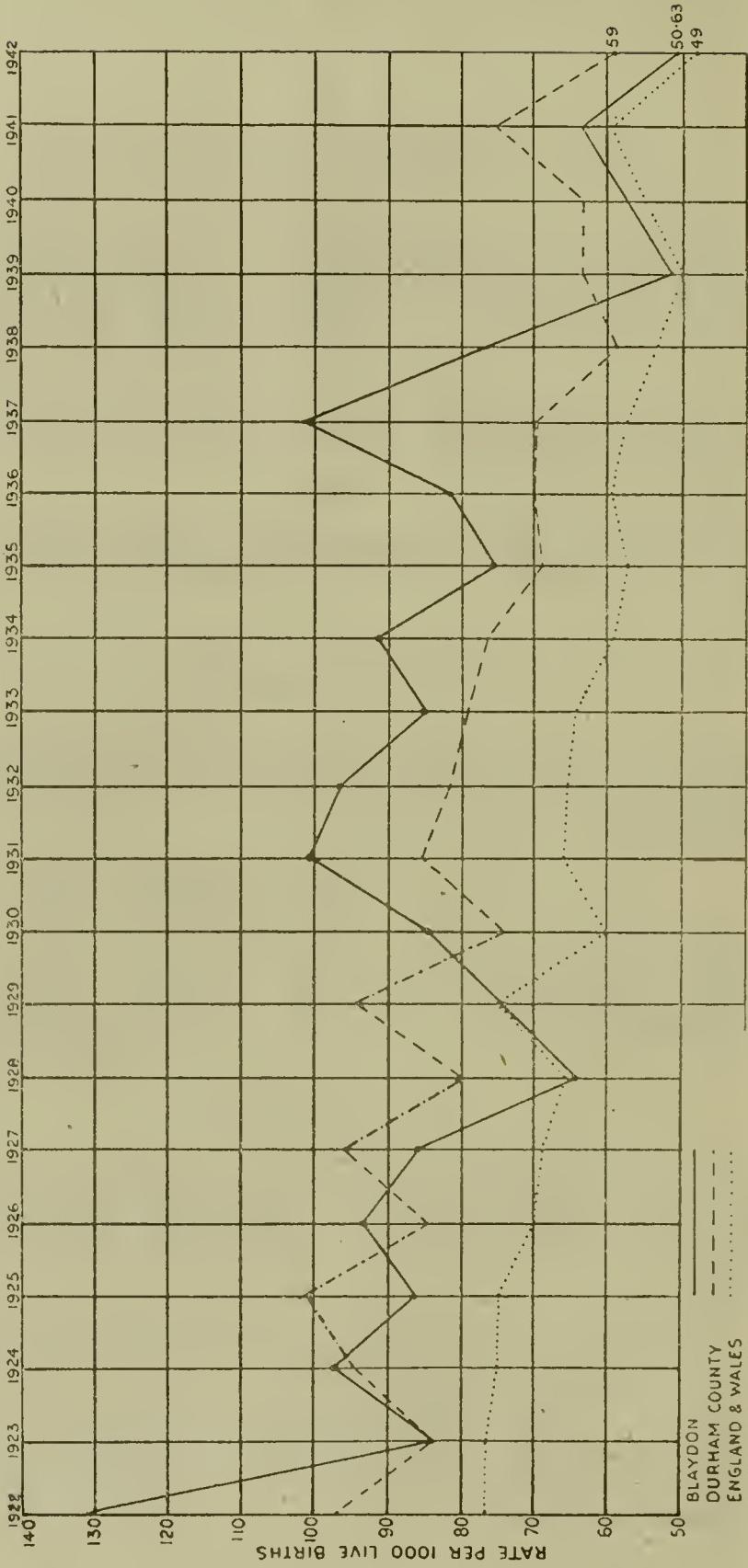
All specimens for bacteriological examination are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, with which the Durham County Council has an agreement.

The majority of such specimens are examined free of cost to both practitioners and patients.

158 specimens were examined during 1942. These are exclusive of specimens examined at the County Dispensaries, Hospitals and Sanitoria.

Graph comparing the Infantile Mortality Rates of Blaydon, Durham County,
and England and Wales, since 1922.

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Bacteriological Examinations from Blaydon District, 1942.

ENTERIC FEVER.				DIPHTHERIA			TUBERCULOSIS			* MISCELLANEOUS			TOTALS		
Serological Exams.															
Positive	Negative	Inconclusive		P	I	N	P	I	N	P	I	N	P	I	N
Typhosus	Paratyphosus B.			20	61	1	14	53	-	7	-	34	123	1	
—	—	2	—												

P - Positive.

N - Negative.

I - Inconclusive.

*This section comprises examinations for Brucella Abortus, Haemolytic Streptococci, Enteric Groups, Diphtheria Virulence and Diphtheria direct swab, which have been specially approved by the County Medical Officer.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Priestman Collieries provide two ambulances, and the Consett Iron Company provide one ambulance for the transport of accidents and cases of sudden illness, etc., occurring among their employees. There are also two public ambulances in the district.

The Conjoint Hospital Committee for Blaydon, Ryton and Whickham provides one ambulance for the transport of infectious diseases.

District Nursing.

The District Nursing throughout the Blaydon area is carried on most efficiently by state registered Nurses, who are appointed by the various Nursing Associations, which are maintained by voluntary effort.

Subscriptions are made by the majority of workmen, who allow deductions from their wages; generous donations are given by the many collieries, benevolent funds and well-wishers in the district; while grants are made through the Durham County Nursing Association and the Public Assistance Committee.

The names of the various associations, together with the details of nursing, are as follows:-

	Association.	Nurses	Cases	Home Visits	Surgery Attendances
1—BLAYDON	The Napier-Clavering Memorial District Nursing Fund ...	1	106*	3026*	—
2—CHOPWELL	Chopwell Nursing Association ...	1	—	1898	1565
3—ROWLANDS GILL	Spen, Victoria Garesfield & Rowlands Gill District Nursing Association	2	836	4409	2880
4—WINLATON	Winlaton and District Nursing Association	1	215	4159	—

* From 1st April, 1942, to 31st March, 1943.

The Spen, Victoria Garesfield and Rowlands Gill District Nursing Association provides and maintains one ambulance, which, during 1942, made 267 journeys.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Minor ailments clinics for school children, dental, sun-ray and maternity and child welfare clinics are provided by the County authorities at various centres throughout the district. The main centre is at the Axwell Park Clinic.

Hospital Provision.

Infectious Diseases. The Conjoint Infectious Diseases Hospital at Norman's Riding, Winlaton, serves the needs of the Blaydon district, besides admitting similar cases from the Ryton and Whickham Urban districts.

In the event of smallpox occurring in the district, the Joint Hospital Committee has made provision for such cases to be treated at Howden Bank Hospital under the County Smallpox Scheme.

Tuberculosis. Durham County Council has provided various sanatoria for the treatment of tuberculous cases throughout the county; the number of beds available for this purpose is 588.

The nearest tuberculosis dispensary is at Whickham (two and a half miles distant).

General. The Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle, receives the greater proportion of medical and surgical cases from the Blaydon district, and also provides a convalescent home for both males and females, which is situated on the western boundary of Ryton Urban District. 100 beds are available.

Midwifery and Gynaecology. Of those midwifery and gynaecological cases sent to hospital, most of them find their way to the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital and to the Gynaecological Department of the Royal Victory Infirmary, Newcastle.

Venereal Diseases. The County Council has an arrangement whereby such cases are treated at the Venereal Diseases Clinic, City Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne.

I have received the following report from the Senior Sanitary Inspector:-

Sanitary circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply. No alteration took place in the sources of supply from those existing in former years. The supply in the western part of the district and Winlaton is obtained from Durham County Water Board, and in the eastern district from Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co. The water is of good quality, continuous and plentiful, with the exception of the Winlaton district where the pressure is insufficient at times.

Closet Accommodation. During the year 3 ash-closets were converted into water-closets, bringing the totals in the district at the end of the year up to 7,536 water-closets, 482 ash-closets and 157 ash pit privies.

Household Refuse Collection and Disposal. Except Barlow, Coalburns and Sherburn Green, where the scavenging is carried out by the local farmers, the whole of the district is scavenged by the Council under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

The stock employed at the end of the year comprised three 3 ton Vulcan Wagons, three horses, one 4 wheeled pneumatic tyred wagon and two coup carts.

Controlled tipping is carried out at the Blaydon, Stampley Moss, Spen and Chopwell tips.

Salvage. During the year the collection and disposal of salvage continued, resulting in the collection of:-

145 tons, 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwts. of Paper.
 165 tons, 10 cwts. of Metals.
 10 tons, 15 cwts. of Bones.
 199 tons of Kitchen Waste.
 10 tons, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwts. of Rags.
 7 tons, 1 cwt. of Rubber.

The result per 1,000 population is shown in the following statement:-

Salvage Yield per 1,000 population.

Month	Rags (lbs.)	Rubber (lbs.)	Paper (cwts)	Metals (cwts)	Bones (lbs.)	Kitchen Waste (cwts)	Sterling Income per 1000 popul'tn
January	—	—	7	5	6	15	3·6
February	—	—	11	2	34	12	4·0
March ...	103	—	8	10	55	16	6·0
April ...	37	100	14	24	53	12	8·7
May ...	—	—	9	11	88	13	7·3
June ...	118	111	10	13	94	11	7·2
July ...	37	—	10	7	37	7	5·1
August ...	118	107	8	13	48	5	4·8
September	193	109	6	4	125	8	4·8
October	35	—	6	10	92	11	4·7
November	95	—	4	8	120	12	4·6
December	60	112	6	1	71	12	3·4
Average per mth.	66·3	45·2	8·25	9·0	68·5	11·2	5·35

Shops and Offices. Visits were made to shops, and while in some cases it was noted that alterations were required to comply with Section 10 of the Shops' Act, 1934, it was deemed advisable to defer these alterations until the termination of the war.

Smoke Abatement. No observations were taken during the year.

Camping Sites. There are no camping sites in the area.

Swimming Baths and Pools. There are no swimming baths or pools in the area.

Picture Halls. There are nine picture halls in the area, visits were made, and generally it was found that they were kept in a clean condition, and that the sanitary accommodation was in good order,

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919. The contract with the Durham County Council for the services of their Rat Officer at our tips and sewage works was renewed, and throughout the year regular visits were made with satisfactory results.

Eradication of Bed Bugs. Two private houses found infested with bed bugs were disinfested.

Factories and Workshops. No action was taken during the course of the year.

Bake-houses. Visits were made to the five bake-houses in the district, and they were found to be kept in a cleanly condition. One bake-house was extended and improved.

Housing. A number of houses were inspected and informal action taken. Essential repairs were executed.

Milk Supply.

(a) Milk & Dairies' Order, 1926.

Visits were made to cow-sheds, dairies and milk-shops in the area, and generally the premises were found in a satisfactory condition. One new 9 Stall Cowshed was constructed.

(b) Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

Applications for renewal of licences to sell graded milk in the Council's area under the above Order were made as follows:-

Pasteurised Milk—2 Dealers' Licences.

1 Supplementary Licence.

As the Council declines to penalise anyone who wishes to supply graded milk, the licences were granted without payment of fees.

Three farms in the area are producing Accredited Milk.

Meat and other Foods. Inspections of premises where food is sold, prepared or manufactured for sale were made, and in a number of cases structural alterations were found to be required to make the premises in all respects fit, but these were deferred until the cessation of hostilities. Generally, the premises and utensils were kept in a cleanly condition.

During visits to these premises the following quantity of food, found to be unsound, was voluntarily surrendered and so disposed of to prevent it being used for the food of man:-

Corned Beef	...	186	lbs.
Luncheon Meat	...	357	lbs.
Other Canned Meats		51	lbs.
Sausage	...	98½	lbs.
Bacon	...	12	lbs.
Cheese	...	33¾	lbs.
Jam	...	50	lbs.
Flour	...	10½	lbs.
Rolled Oats	...	7	lbs.
Tea	...	¼	lbs.
Sardines	...	4	Tins
Salmon	...	43	Tins
Herrings	...	4	Tins
Condensed Milk	.	8	Tins
Oxtail Soup	...	5	Tins
Beans	...	23	Tins
Pears	...	3	Tlns
Pineapples	...	16	Tins
Tomatoes	...	8	Tins
Peas	...	55	Tins
Apples	...	6	Tins
Vegetable Soup	...	6	Tins
Chocolate	...	18	Bars
Eggs	...	124	

Slaughter Houses. There are 14 slaughter houses in the district, but since the introduction of centralised slaughtering, no slaughtering has been carried out in the area.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Housing —Structural Defects remedied	...	113
Foul Conditions	...	2
Water services repaired	..	25
Drainage —New drains laid and tested	...	—
New inspection chambers built	...	—
Defective yard paving repaired	...	2
Other drainage faults	...	35

Sanitary Conveniences—

Water closet defects remedied	...	31
Ash closets converted into water closets	...	2
New water closets provided (replacements)	...	—
Defective ash bins replaced	...	40
Ashpits and privy defects remedied	...	22
Other nuisances	...	2

Infectious Diseases—

Number of houses and lots of bedding disinfected after infectious diseases	...	134
--	-----	-----

Details of Houses in the District.

Blaydon	...	...	...	2022
Stella	...	...	...	176
Winlaton	...	...	...	1946
Barlow	...	...	...	94
High Spen	...	...	...	719
Rowlands Gill	...	...	...	753
Victoria Garesfield and Highfield	...	...	...	496
Lintzford	...	...	...	24
Chopwell	...	...	...	1363
Blackhall Mill	...	...	...	272
Winlaton Mill	...	...	...	357
				—
				8,222

**Prevalence of, and control over
Infectious Diseases.**

During the year there was a considerable reduction in the total number of cases notified as compared with those during 1941, the figures being 295 and 905 respectively. This reversal was in great measure due to Measles and Whooping Cough which constituted a decrease of 367 and 283 respectively. Scarlet Fever showed an increase of 73 cases over the preceding year.

ENTERIC.

There were 0 cases of Enteric Fever notified during 1942 (5 during 1941.)

SMALLPOX.

There have been no cases notified since April, 1938.

DIPHTHERIA.

41 cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year and 40 were removed to hospital. Three deaths were recorded, giving a fatality rate of 7·31% as compared with 9·43% for 1941 (five deaths).

SCARLET FEVER.

88 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, and 81 were removed to hospital. No deaths occurred.

During 1941, 15 cases were notified without death.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

During the year 2 cases were notified, as compared with 6 cases in 1941.

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.

5 cases were notified and removed to Norman's Riding Hospital for treatment. 1 death occurred, giving a fatality rate of 20%. 9 cases were notified in 1941.

ERYSIPelas.

9 cases were notified during the year as compared with 13 cases during 1941. One case was removed to hospital.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.

During 1942, there were 116 cases of Measles and 15 of Whooping Cough notified. The corresponding figures for 1941 were 483 and 298 respectively. One death from Measles and 1 from Whooping Cough occurred giving fatality rates of 0·86% and 6·6% respectively.

ARTIFICIAL IMMUNISATION.

(a) Diphtheria prophylaxis was commenced in the Blaydon area in 1936.

During 1942 there were 1,336 children completely immunised, involving approximately double this number of injections. During the same period 672 children were partially immunised, involving a similar number of injections.

The above figures are made up as follows:-

Completed Immunisations—

Under 5 years of age ...	466
Between 5 and 15 years of age	870
	<hr/> 1,336

Incompleted Immunisation.

Under 5 years of age ...	138
Between 5 and 15 years of age	534
	<hr/> 672

The County Council has kindly co-operated in allowing us the use of their clinics at Axwell Park, Chopwell and Rowlands Gill.

(b) Of 41 cases of Diphtheria notified during the year, 10 had been immunised against the disease, but none of these proved fatal. Three deaths occurred amongst the remaining 31 non-immunised cases.

(c) The prophylactic used for immunisation purposes is an Alum Precipitated Toxoid produced by Messrs Burroughs Wellcome & Co.

PNEUMOCOCCAL TYPING.

There are no local facilities available for the Typing of Pneumococci, although such facilities could, no doubt, be inaugurated should the necessity arise.

MEASLES PROPHYLAXIS AND ATTENUATION.

At the present there are no local facilities available for the use of serum for Measles Prophylaxis or Attenuation; this also is a matter which, I have little doubt, could be given consideration should the necessity arise.

SCABIES.

During the early part of the year the treatment of scabies in the home was commenced. Written advice as to the best means of treatment was distributed and a suitable medicament was made available to patients on application to the Public Health Department.

Following the introduction of the Scabies Order, 1941, (dated 14th May, 1942), the intensive treatment of scabies was commenced at the First Aid Post, Blaydon Miners' Welfare Hall, and clinics have been held regularly several times per week ever since.

The Staff of the First Aid Post kindly volunteered for this important work and their assistance has been invaluable.

The Order met with some slight criticism from a few of the earlier cases but, in the face of later results, this opposition soon dwindled and, more latterly, a large proportion of cases have come forward spontaneously for treatment. It can now, indeed, be stated that the treatments given at the First Aid Post have been of considerable benefit to the community and have kept the disease within reasonable bounds.

I must, once more, acknowledge with sincere appreciation the sterling voluntary assistance afforded by Miss Todd and other members of her staff, not only in the sphere of scabies but in the immunisation against diphtheria, of many hundreds of children throughout the area.

Scabies—Details of Treatment.

Treatments at First Aid Post	...	1073
Home visits	...	494
Cases involved	...	668

**Cases of Infectious Diseases notified
during the year 1942.**

DISEASE.			Total cases notified.			Total Deaths
				Cases admitted to Hospital at Normans Riding.		
Small-pox	...	...	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	88	81	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	41	40	3	—
Enteric Fever	...	...	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	...	...	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	1	1	—	—
Pneumonia (Lobar)	...	...	18	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	9	1	—	—
Other Diseases	...	...	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	2	—	—	—
Dysentery	...	...	—	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	116	—	1	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	15	—	1	1
C. S. M.	...	...	5	5	1	1

Analysis of Cases into Age Groups.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and Mortality during 1942.

Age Periods	New Cases.						Deaths					
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory				Respiratory		Non-Respiratory			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...												
1 ...												
5 ...	1	3	2	2					1	1		
15 ...	5	9	2	1			2	4				
25 ...	3	4	2						3			
35 ...	2		1				1					
45 ...	2						2					
55				1			1	1	1			
65 and upwards							2				1	
Totals ...	13	16	7	4			8	8	1	2		

Ratio of non-notified tuberculous deaths to total
tuberculous deaths = 2 : 19.

**THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S SHORT LIST OF CAUSES OF
DEATH DURING 1942.**

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALES	FEMALES
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—
2 Measles	1	—
3 Scarlet Fever	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	—	1
5 Diphtheria	2	1
6 Influenza	1	1
7 Acute Infective Encephalitis	1	—
8 Cerebro Spinal Fever...	1	—
9 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	8	8
10 Other Tuberculosis diseases	1	2
11 Syphilis	1	—
12 Cancer, malignant diseases	19	12
13 Diabetes	1	2
14 Cerebral Lesions	20	20
15 Heart Diseases	50	24
16 Other Diseases of Circulatory System	16	4
17 Bronchitis	13	5
18 Pneumonia (all forms)	5	3
91 Other Respiratory diseases	3	3
20 Peptic Ulcer	2	—
21 Diarrhoea etc (under 2 years)	—	—
22 Appendicitis	—	2
23 Other digestive diseases	2	4
24 Acute and Chronic Nephritis	8	2
25 Puerperal Sepsis	—	1
26 Other Puerperal causes	—	—
27 Congenital debility, Premature birth and malformations, etc.	10	6
28 Suicide	1	1
29 Other Violent Causes	8	2
30 Road Traffic Accidents	5	2
31 All other causes	16	10
ALL CAUSES —		195
ALL CAUSES —		116

Total Number of Deaths - 311.

